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Reports

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Airline Safety: The Good News. The Heritage Foundation. James L. Gattuso. July 16, 2013.

The July 6 crash landing of an Asiana jetliner that killed three passengers and injured dozens more was a tragedy. The accident is rightly being thoroughly investigated by federal safety officials as well as aviation industry experts to determine how it happened and prevent such a tragic accident from happening again. But hidden between the lines in the news coverage of the event is a remarkable story: the breathtaking, long-term improvements in safety in the airline industry, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2013/pdf/ib3989.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages, 134.38 KB].

Item#2

Challenges of a Multipolar World: The United States, India, and the European Union in the Asia-Pacific. Brookings Institution. Clara M. O'Donnell and Rohan Mukherjee. July 2013.

The paper explores the similarities and contrasts between the European and Indian positions toward the Asia-Pacific in order to highlight the challenges for the United States of international cooperation in an increasingly multipolar world. It recommends how, in light of their differences, both powers and the United States can best work together in the region.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.gmfus.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files_mf/1373399230Mukherjee_ODonnell_ChallengesMultipolarWorld_Jul13.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages, 171.04 KB].

Item#3

Clean Air Issues in the 113th Congress: An Overview. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. James E. McCarthy. July 15, 2013.

As the 113th Congress continues consideration of air quality issues, oversight of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory actions is expected to remain the main focus. Of particular interest are EPA's Clean Air Act regulations on emissions of greenhouse gases and revision of the ambient air quality standards for ozone. President Obama's June 25 announcement of initiatives to address climate change has sparked renewed interest in the former, and EPA's expected proposal of new ozone standards by the end of the year is stimulating interest in the latter.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42895.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages, 499.42 KB].

Item#4

EPA Regulations: Too Much, Too Little, or On Track? Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. James E. McCarthy and Claudia Copeland. July 16, 2013.

The report discusses factors that affect the timeframe in which regulations take effect, including statutory and judicial deadlines, public comment periods, judicial review, and permitting procedures, the net results of which are that existing facilities are likely to have several years before being required to comply with most of the regulatory actions under discussion. Unable to account for such factors, which will vary from case to case, timelines that show date for proposal and promulgation of EPA

standards effectively underestimate the complexities of the regulatory process and overstate the near-term impact of many of the regulatory actions.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41561.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages, 521.51 KB].

Item#5

How Europe's Changing Population Will Impact on Income Inequality. RAND Corporation. Benoit Guerin. July 17, 2013.

Analyzing future demographic trends will help policymakers successfully implement Europe's poverty strategy for 2020 by reducing at-risk-of-poverty rates for a significant number of EU citizens. Sections of the population most at risk of poverty that are likely to grow in size include the elderly and migrants, as well as elderly women and single heads of households. Successfully managing the transition to an increasingly ageing population while continuing to maintain high welfare standards will depend upon continuing reform of pensions systems, healthcare systems and labour markets, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR100/RR183/RAND_RR183.pdf [PDF format, 45 pages, 0.8 MB].

Item#6

Lasting Legacy: Nelson Mandela's Evolution as a Strategic Leader. Paul J. H. Schoemaker. Knowledge @Wharton. July 9, 2013.

The life story of Nelson Mandela is well known, and has elevated him to the level of such widely recognized heroes as Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa. There is indeed much courage, sacrifice, wisdom and nobility in his life -- attributes that demand our deep respect and have much to teach us. What is less well-known is how Mandela evolved into the kind of strategic leader who, from prisons on Robben Island and elsewhere, helped to bring genuine democracy to South Africa, notes the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/articlepdf/3297.pdf?CFID=94415604&CFTOKEN=63472321&jsessionid=a83061a275e23d7768b921404e104129563c> [PDF format, 4 pages, 177.65 KB].

Item#7

Man Without a Country. YaleGlobal. Alistair Burnett. July 16, 2013.

Edward Snowden, a former contract worker who exposed secret National Security Agency practices, has been trapped inside Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport for 23 days and counting. The United States, alternately pressuring and pleading with other countries not to offer Snowden asylum, has charged him with unauthorized release of classified intelligence and theft of government property. So far, most nations want to avoid U.S. wrath. Venezuela, Bolivia and Nicaragua have presented asylum offers, yet with Snowden deprived of a US passport, travel would not be easy. The case highlights longstanding fissures between Europe and Latin America over colonial and neo-imperialist behavior and within Latin America, with some governments depending on good relations with the United States and others relying on anti-American rhetoric for power, reports Alistair Burnett. If Snowden manages to escape to a Latin

American democracy, Burnett adds, then he must also worry about shifting democracy and election of a pro-U.S. leader who could extradite him.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/man-without-country> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

Measuring the Internet Economy. Organisation for the Economic Co-operation and Development. July 12, 2013.

The Internet began as a way of linking different computers over the phone network, but it now connects billions of users worldwide from wherever they happen to be via portable or fixed devices. The Internet began as an important tool for improving communication but has transformed into a universal technology supporting all virtually sectors across the economy, just like electricity or steam engine did in the past. Given the growing importance of the Internet as a policy tool, the question about the value of the Internet economy becomes particularly relevant. There is a high level of interest, therefore, in being able to measure the size of the Internet economy as a way to understand the effects of various investment strategies, regulatory rulings and policy decisions. The research illustrates the importance of establishing an international definition and the need to develop related policies. According to one of the approaches, at least 3.2% and up to 13.8% of business sector value added in the United States in 2011 could be attributed to Internet-related activities depending on the scope of the definition. It needs to be highlighted that the respective figures for 2010 were 3% and up to 13%. This indicates that the Internet economy has reported a steady growth rate since 2010.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/5k43gig6r8jf.pdf?expires=1374073186&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=9F141A65A4EDD6E918AFC22900BFB2E3> [PDF format, 108 pages, 1.83 MB].

Item#9

Modest Public Interest in Close of Zimmerman Trial: Wider Race Gap in Interest than for Rodney King, O.J. Simpson. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. July 15, 2013.

The final days of the trial of George Zimmerman, which concluded July 13 with a verdict of not guilty, attracted relatively modest public interest overall. In a weekend survey, 26% say they were following news about the trial very closely. This is lower than interest in the initial controversy over Trayvon Martin's shooting when it erupted last year. However, the story has consistently attracted far more interest among blacks than whites - and that remained the case in the trial's final days. Blacks are more than twice as likely as whites to say they tracked news about the Zimmerman trial very closely (56% vs. 20%).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/07-15-13%20Zimmerman%20Trial%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages, 362.74 KB].

Item#10

The New START Treaty: Central Limits and Key Provisions. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Amy F. Woolf. July 12, 2013.

The United States and Russia signed the New START Treaty on April 8, 2010. After more than 20 hearings, the U.S. Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification on December 22, 2010, by a vote of 71-26. Both houses of the Russian parliament--the Duma and Federation Council-- approved the treaty in late January 2011, and it entered into force on February 5, 2011, after Secretary of State Clinton and Foreign Minister Lavrov exchanged the instruments of ratification. New START provides the parties with 7 years to reduce their forces, and will remain in force for a total of 10 years. Critics, however, question whether the treaty serves U.S. national security interests, as Russia was likely to reduce its forces with or without an arms control agreement and because the United States and Russia no longer need arms control treaties to manage their relationship. Some also consider the U.S.-Russian arms control process to be a distraction from the more important issues on the nonproliferation agenda.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R41219.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages, 430.26 KB].

Item#11

Russian Interests in Sub-Saharan Africa. Strategic Studies Institute. Keir Giles. July 12, 2013.

Russia is intensifying its engagement with Southern Africa to meet both foreign policy and long-term economic objectives. This presents both potential opportunities and challenges for U.S. policy in the region, especially in those states where a preference for U.S. presence and influence is not axiomatic.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1169> [HTML format with a link to the PDF file, 67 pages].